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MILITARY OFFICER DENIES CIA PAYMENTS
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SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

The chief of the Treasury Police denies allegations that he was a paid informant for the Central Intelligence Agency and is connected with rightist death squads.

Col. Nicolas Carranza described the allegations as an attempt by "my enemies ... to destroy my image in El Salvador."

"I have never received anything from the Americans except friendship," Carranza said in an interview Thursday with The Associated Press.

The allegations were first made by a former Salvadoran military officer in interviews with The New York Times and CBS News. Although not identified by name in those interviews, the former officer is described as having served at top levels of the Salvadoran security forces.

The New York Times on March 3 quoted an unnamed former Salvadoran military officer as saying Carranza was among a group in the military with links to the death squads.

A U.S. government official, familiar with the former officer's account and with information the CIA supplied to congressional oversight committees, said Carranza has worked for the CIA for the past five years.

The U.S. official, who insisted on anonymity, said Carranza was paid \$8,000 to \$10,000 a month from the CIA. Carranza said his Salvadoran military salary is about \$1,000 a month.

In Thursday's editions, the New York Times, quoting American officials, said Carranza received up to \$90,000 a year from the CIA.

The CIA and the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador refused comment on the report.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes responded to questions about the alleged CIA payments to Carranza by quoting a longstanding presidential prohibition against any person "employed by or acting on behalf of the U.S. government" engaging in or conspiring to engage in assassinations.

Speakes added that "the CIA abides by that provision scrupulously and does not employ people whom it believes have been or currently (are) engaged in assassination activities. Death squad activity in El Salvador falls within this category."